

## WORKING GROUP ON PUBLISHING

*(GROUPE DE TRAVAIL POUR LA POLITIQUE DE PUBLICATION)*

**CHAIRPERSON:** Michelle C. Storey

**MEMBERS:** Heinz Andernach, Kirk Borne (Vice-Chair), Oddbjørn Engvold, Françoise Genova, Eugene de Geus, James Lequeux, Donald Lubowich, Barry Madore, Simon Mitton, Ray Norris, François Ochsenbein, Davis Philip, Ernst Raimond, Nancy Grace Roman, Marion Schmitz, George Wilkins & Qin Zeng

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The Working Group on Publishing is a new Working Group formed in 2001 whose purpose is to look at how research results are being, and ought to be, published. The initial membership was largely taken from the earlier Working Group on Information Handling, but it is expected that as the duties of the Working Group become better defined, then its membership may alter slightly. There have been no meetings of the Working Group so far, although many discussions have been conducted via email.

Recommendations from the WG on Publishing have been sent to the publishers of the majority of astronomical journals, suggesting that they:

- request that authors use approved nomenclature for astronomical objects,
- request that authors use consistent formatting for electronic-only Tables included with journal publications,
- ensure that, when electronic Tables are included with journal publications, the information in a caption or sample Table is adequate to properly describe the content of the full Table.

The WG on Publishing has also been examining how the IAU should publish its own publications in future. A new model for publishing the IAU Symposia and Colloquia has been developed by the Working Group and feedback is currently being sought from librarians, astronomers and publishers on the new model.

In 2002, talks seeking feedback from the astronomical community on the work of the WG on Publishing were presented at the Communicating Astronomy conference held in Tenerife, Canary Islands, in February 2002 and at the Library and Information Services in Astronomy IV conference held in Prague, Czech Republic in July 2002.

Issues on which feedback was sought at these meetings include:

- After the termination of *Astronomy and Astrophysics Abstracts*, can the IAU support some abstracting service with an international scope, in order to encourage the wide awareness of astronomical research from all over the world?
- Promoting the adherence to consistent standards of nomenclature and data inclusion in refereed papers,
- A new proposed model for publishing IAU-sponsored Symposia and Colloquia, based on a journal model and not individual hardcopy conference books,
- The concentration of astronomical literature into a few core journals,

- Peer review and the possibility of astronomical journals exploring innovative peer review options such as open reviewing,
- Archiving.

Members of the astronomical community who wish to make input to the Working Group on Publishing are encouraged to contact the Chair, Michelle Storey on [michelle.storey@csiro.au](mailto:michelle.storey@csiro.au).

Michelle Storey  
*Chairperson of the Working Group*